

# THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

"I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man."—Thomas Jefferson.

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## TERMS:

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

A singular instance of justice and sagacity conquering fraud and perjury.

A Gentleman of about 500l. a year estate in the eastern part of England had two sons. The eldest had a rambling disposition. He took a place in a ship and went abroad; after several years his father died. The younger son destroyed his father's will, and seized upon the estate. He gave out that his eldest brother was dead, and bribed some false witnesses, to attest the truth of it. In a course of time, the eldest brother returned; he came home in miserable circumstances. His youngest brother repulsed him with scorn, told him that he was an impostor and a cheat, and asserted that his real brother was dead long ago and he could bring witnesses to prove it. The poor fellow, having neither money nor friends, was in a most dismal situation. He went round the parish making bitter complaints, and at last he came to a lawyer; who, when he had heard the poor man's mournful story replied to him in this manner:—"You have nothing to give me: if I undertake your cause and lose it, it will bring me into very foul disgrace, as all the wealth and evidence are on your brother's side. But, however, I will undertake your cause upon this condition:—You will enter into obligations to pay me a thousand guineas if I gain the estate for you. If I lose it I know the consequence, and I venture upon it with my eyes open." Accordingly he entered an action against the younger brother, and it was agreed to be tried at the next general assizes at Chelmsford in Essex.

The lawyer having engaged in the cause of the poor man and stimulated by the prospect of a thousand guineas, set his wits to work to contrive the best method to gain his end. At last he hit upon this happy thought, that he would consult the first of all the judges, Lord Chief Justice Hale. Accordingly he flew up to London, and laid open the cause in all its circumstances. The Judge, who was the greatest lover of justice of any man in the world, heard the case patiently, and attentively, and promised him all the assistance in his power. (It is very probable that he opened his whole scheme and method of proceeding, enjoining the utmost secrecy.) The Judge contrived matters in such a manner as to have all his business done at the King's Bench before the assizes began at Chelmsford, and ordered his driver with his carriage to convey him down very near the seat of the assizes. He dismissed his man and horses, and sought out for a single house. He found one occupied by a miller. After some conversation, and making himself quite agreeable, he proposed to the miller to change clothes with him. As the judge had a very good suit on the man had no reason to object. Accordingly the judge shifted himself from top to toe, and put on a complete suit of the miller's best. Armed with the miller's hat and shoes, and sick away he marched to Chelmsford, he had procured lodgings to his liking, and waited for the assizes that should come on next day. When the trial came on, he walked like an ignorant country-fellow backwards

and forwards along the county-hall.

He had a thousand eyes within him and when the court began to fill, he soon found out the poor fellow that was the plaintiff. As soon as he came into the hall the miller drew up to him—"Honest friend," said he, "how is your cause like to go to day?"—"Why," replied the plaintiff, "my cause is in a very precarious situation, and if I lose it, I am ruined for life."—"Well, honest friend," replied the miller, "will you take my advice? I will let you into a secret which perhaps you do not know; every Englishman has the right and privilege to except against any one jurymen through the whole twelve; now do you insist upon your privilege, without giving a reason why, and if possible get me chosen in his room, and I will do you all the service in my power." Accordingly when the clerk of the court had called over the juryman, the plaintiff excepted to one of them by name; the judge on the bench was highly offended with this liberty.—"What do you mean (says he) by accepting against that gentleman?"—"The Judge, who had been deeply bribed, thought to conceal it by a show of candor and having a confidence in the superiority of his party. "Well, sir, (said he) as you claim your privilege in one instance, I will grant you a favor; who would you wish to have in the room of that man excepted against?"—"After a small time taken in consideration "My lord (says he), I wish to have an honest man chose in," and he looked round the court—"My lord there is that miller in the room, we will have him if you please." Accordingly the miller was chosen in. As soon as the clerk of the court had given them all their oaths, a little dexterous fellow came into the apartment, and slips ten gold Caroluses into the hands of eleven jurymen, and gave the miller but five. He observed that they were all bribed as well as himself and said to his next neighbor, in a soft whisper.—"How much have you got?"—"Ten pieces," said he. He concealed what he had himself. The cause was opened by the plaintiff's counsel; and all the scraps of evidence they could pick up were adduced in his favor.

The younger brother was provided with a great number of evidences and pleaders, all plentifully bribed as well as the judge. The evidence deposed, that they were in the self-same country where the brother, died, and saw him buried. The counsellors pleaded upon this accumulated evidence, and every thing was with a full tide in favor of the young brother. The judge summed up the evidence with great gravity and deliberation, and now "Gentlemen of the jury, (said he,) lay your heads together, and bring in your verdict as you shall deem most just."—"They waited but a few minutes before they determined in favor of the young brother. The judge said, "Gentlemen are you agreed, and who shall speak for you?"—"We are agreed, my lord; (replied one,) our foreman speaks for us."—"Hold, my lord, (replied the miller) we are not all agreed."—"Why says the judge, "in a very surly manner, what's the matter with you? What reasons have you for disagreeing?"—"I have several reasons my lord, replied the miller; the first is, that they have given to all these gentlemen of the jury ten broad pieces of gold, and to me but five besides I have many objections to make to the false reasoning of the pleaders, and the contradictory evidence of the witnesses." Upon this the miller began a discourse that discovered such vast penetration of understanding, such extensive law expressed with such energetic and manly eloquence that astonished the judge and the whole court. As he was going on with his powerful demonstrations; the judge in a surprise of soul stopped him.—"Where did you come from, and who are you?"—"I came from Westminster Hall; I am Lord Chief Justice of the King's-Bench; I have observed the iniquity of your proceedings this day, and therefore order you down from a seat which is no way worthy to hold. You are one of the corrupt parties

in this iniquitous business. I will go up this moment and try the cause all over again." Accordingly Sir Mathew went up with his miller's dress and hat on began with the trial from its very origin—searched every circumstance of truth and falsehood—evinced the eldest brother's title to the estate, from the contradictory evidence of the witnesses, and the false reasonings of the pleaders—unravelled all the sophistry to the very bottom, and gained a complete victory in favor of Truth and Justice.

From Chambers' Edinburg Journal.

## THE FORTUNES OF A COUNTRY GIRL.—A STORY.

One day, I will not say how many years ago—for I intend to be very mysterious for a time with my readers—a young woman stepped from a country wagon that had just arrived at the yard gate of the famous Chelsea Inn, the Goat and Compasses, a name terned by corrupting me out of the pious original, "God encompasseth us." The young woman seemed about the age of 18, and was decently dressed, though in the plainest rustic fashion of the times. She was well formed and well looking, both form and looks giving indications of the ruddy health consequent upon exposure to sun and air in the country. After stepping from the wagon, which the driver immediately led into the court yard, the girl stood for a moment in apparent uncertainty whither to go, when the mistress of the inn who had come to the door, observed her hesitation, and asked her to enter and take rest. The young woman readily obeyed the invitation, and soon, by the kindness of the landlady found herself by the fire-side of a nicely sanded parlor, wherewithal to refresh herself after a long and tedious journey.

"And so, my poor girl," said the landlady, after having heard in return for her kindness, the whole particulars of the young woman's situation and history, "so thou hast come all this way to seek service, and hast no friend but John Hodge, the wagoner? Tray, he is like to give thee but small held, wench, towards getting a place."

"Is service, then, difficult to be had?" asked the young woman, sadly.

"Ah, marry, good situations, at least, are hard to find. But have a good heart, child," said the landlady, and, as she continued, she looked around her with an air of pride and dignity; "thou seest what I have come to myself; and I left the country a young thing just like thyself, with a little to look to.—But 'tisn't every one for certain, that must look for such a fortune, and in any case it must be wrought for. I showed myself a good servant, before my poor old Jacob, heaven rest his soul, made me mistress of the Goat and Compasses. So mind thee girl—"

The landlady's speech might have gone on a long way; for the dame loved well the sound of her own tongue, but for the interruption occasioned by the entrance of a gentleman, when the landlady rose and welcomed him heartily.

"Ha! dame" said the new comer, who was a stout, respectfully attired person of middle age, "how sells the good ale?—Scarcely a drop left in the cellars, I hope?"

"Enough left to give your worship a draught after your long walk," as she rose to fulfil the promise implied in her words.

"I walked not," was the gentleman's return, but took a pair of oars and came down the river. Thou knowest I always come to Chelsea myself to see if thou lackest anything."

"Ah, sir," replied the landlady, "and it is by that way of doing business that you have made yourself as all the city says, the richest man in the Brewers' Corporation, if not in all London itself."

"Well, dame, the better for me if it is so," said the brewer, with a smile; "but let us have the mug and this quite pretty friend of thine shall pleasure us, mayhap, by tasting with us."

The landlady was not long in producing a stoop of ale, knowing that her visitor never set an example hurtful to his own interests

by countenancing the consumption of foreign spirits.

"Right, hostess," said the brewer, when he had tasted it, "well made and well kept and that is giving both thee and me our dues. Now, pretty one," said he, filling one of the measures of glasses which had been placed beside the stoop, "wilt thou drink this to thy sweetheart's health?"

The poor country girl to whom this was addressed declined the proffered civility, and with a blush; but the landlady exclaimed, "Come, silly wench, drink his worship's health; he is more likely to get thee a service if it is so pleased him, than John Hodge, the wagoner."

"This girl has come many a mile," continued the hostess, "to seek a place in town, that she may burden her family no more at home."

"To seek service!" exclaimed the brewer; "why then it is perhaps well met with us. Has she brought a character with her, or can you speak for her dame?"

"She has never yet been from home, sir, but her face is her character," said the kind hearted landlady; "I warrant she will be a diligent and trusty one."

"Upon thy prophesy, hostess, will I take her into my own service; for but yesterday was my housekeeper complaining of the want of help, since this deputyship brought me more into the way of entertaining the people of the ward."

Ere the wealthy brewer and deputy left the Goat and Compasses, arrangements were made for sending the country girl to his house in the city on the following day—Proud of having done a kind action, the garrulous hostess took advantage of the circumstance to deliver an immensely long harangue to the young woman on her new duties, and on the danger to which youth is exposed in large cities. The girl heard her benedictress with modest thankfulness, but a more minute observer than the good landlady might have seen in the eye and countenance of the girl a quiet firmness of expression, such as might have induced the cutting short of the lecture. However, the landlady's lecture did end, and towards the evening of the day after her arrival at the Goat and Compasses, the youthful rustic found herself installed as housemaid in the dwelling of the rich brewer.

The fortunes of this girl, it is our purpose to follow. The first change in her condition which took place subsequent to that related, was her elevation to the vacated post of housekeeper in the brewer's family. In this situation she was brought more than formerly in contact with her master, who found ample means for admiring her propriety of conduct, as well as her skillful economy of management. By degrees he began to find her presence necessary to his happiness; and being a man both of honorable and independent mind he at length offered her his hand. It was accepted; and she, who but four or five years before had left her country home barefooted become the wife of one of the richest citizens in London.

For many years Mr. Aylesbury, for such was the name of the brewer, and his wife, lived in happiness and comfort together.—He was a man of good family and connections, and consequently of higher breeding than his wife could boast of, but on no occasion had he ever to blush for the partner whom he had chosen. Her calm, inborn strength, if not dignity of character, conjoined with an extreme quickness of perception, made her fill her place at her husband's table with as much grace and credit as if she had been born to the station. And, as time ran on, the respectability of Mr. Aylesbury's position received a gradual increase. He became an Alderman, and subsequently a sheriff of the city, and in consequence of the latter elevation was knighted. Afterwards—and now a part of the mystery projected at the commencement of this story, must be broken in upon, as far as time is concerned—afterwards, the important place which the wealthy brewer held in the city, called down upon him the

attention and favor of the king, Charles I, then anxious to conciliate the good will of the citizens, and the city knight received the farther honor of baronetcy.

Lady Aylesbury, in the first year of her married life, gave birth to a daughter, who proved an only child, and round whom, as was natural, all the hopes and wishes of the parents entwined themselves. This daughter had only reached the age of seventeen when her father died leaving an immense fortune behind him. It was at first thought that the widow and her daughter would become inheritors of this without the shadow of a dispute. But it proved otherwise. Certain relatives of the deceased brewer set up a plea upon the foundation of a will made in their favor before the deceased had become married. With her wonted firmness, Lady Aylesbury immediately took steps for the vindication of her own and her child's rights. A young lawyer, who had been a frequent guest at her husband's table, and of whose abilities she had formed a high opinion, was the person whom she fixed upon as the legal asserter of her cause. Edward Hyde was, indeed a youth of great ability. Though only twenty four years of age at the period referred to, and though he had spent much of his youthful time in the society of the gay and fashionable of the day, he had not neglected the pursuits to which his family's wish, as well as his own tastes, had devoted him. But it was with considerable hesitation, and with a feeling of anxious diffidence, that he consented to undertake the charge of Lady Aylesbury's case; for certain strong though unseen and unacknowledged sensations, were at work in his bosom, to make him fearful of the responsibility and anxious about the result.

The young lawyer, however, became counsel for the brewer's widow and daughter, and by a striking exertion of eloquence, and display of legal ability, gained their suit. Two days after the successful pleader was seated beside his two clients. Lady Aylesbury's usual manner was quiet and composed, but she now spoke warmly of her gratitude to the preserver of her daughter from wants and also tendered a fee—a payment munificent, indeed, for the occasion. The young barrister did not seem at ease during Lady Aylesbury's expression of her feelings. He shifted upon his chair, changed color, looked to Miss Aylesbury, played with the purse before him, tried to speak, but stopped short, and changed color again. Thinking only of best expressing her own gratitude, Lady Aylesbury appeared not to observe her visitor's confusion, but arose saying, "In token that I hold your services above compensation in the way of money, I wish also to give you a memorial of my gratitude in another shape." As she spoke thus, she drew a bunch of keys from her pocket, which every lady carried in those days, and left the room.

What passed during her absence between the parties whom she left together, will be best known by the result. When Lady Aylesborough returned, she found her daughter standing with averted eyes, but her hand within that of Edward Hyde, who knelt on the mother's entrance, and sought her consent to their union. Explanations of the feeling which the parties entertained for each other, ensued, and lady Aylesbury was not long in giving the desired consent. "Give me leave, however," said she to the lover, "to place around your neck the memorial which I intend for you. This chain," it was a superb gold one—"was a token of gratitude from the ward in which he lived, to my dear husband." Lady Aylesbury's calm serious eyes were filled with tears as she threw the chain round Edward's neck, saying, "These links were borne on the neck of a worthy and honored man. May'st thou my beloved son, attain to still higher honors."

The wish was fulfilled, though not until danger and suffering tried severely the parties concerned. The son-in-law of Lady Aylesbury became an eminent member of